



The Office of the City Manager

David Willard
City Manager

July 26, 2012

Mayor Dean and City Council:

It is my pleasure tonight to present for your consideration a proposed budget for the City of Longview for FY2012-2013. The document you have before you is the culmination of a process that began in May and will end when council adopts the final version of this budget at the end of August. As we go forward from tonight, there will be plenty of opportunities for discussion and public input. The city staff will be more than glad to answer any questions you might have, as well as providing you with any other information necessary, to help you make informed decisions.

As you know, over the course of the last two years, our community has faced some difficult times. Due to the national recession, there are businesses that have struggled to earn a profit. Probably the most impactful aspect to our local economy has been the fall in natural gas prices. As a result, many of the oil and gas service companies have shifted their focus to the Eagle Ford oil play in South Texas. Even so, the Longview economy is well diversified and has fared much better than many other cities in Texas, as well as the nation as a whole. Once again, our city staff has done an excellent job of managing their budgets and we expect to end the 2012 budget year in September, with expenditures under our revenues, resulting in another budget surplus.

Even with Longview's economic stability, there is still the need to budget as conservatively as possible, and although we have seen increases in the cost of providing services, we understand that, as any business or family budget, we at the city must also balance our expenses with the available income and that is the budget that we are presenting to you tonight.

In preparing this budget proposal for you, we have kept the following goals in mind:

- Budget Conservatively
- Remain Fiscally Responsible
- Reduce costs throughout the budget when possible.
- Continue to Provide Quality Services to the Citizens, especially in the core areas of Public Safety and Public Works, while not raising taxes.

I want to thank Directors, Department Heads and staff for their work during this budget preparation. Also, I would like to recognize my budget team; Assistant City Manager Chuck Ewings, Assistant to the City Manager Mary Ann Miller, and Finance Director Angela Coen. This has truly been a team effort.

Sincerely

David Willard
City Manager